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LB 864

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: ...it doesn't affect the PRUCOLs, which is another group and it all gets complicated. These are the legal immigrants.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And now is the A bill still accurate of 800,000, 700,000, million and a half?

SENATOR WESELY: Seven hundred...715,000, Senator Wehrbein, 715.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Seven fifteen, both years?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, and the thing I would note, and I mentioned it earlier, is that this issue is on the table back in the Congress again. I think there's some reconsideration about whether or not the federal step back was appropriate. There may be a change. I can't promise it, I don't know if it will happen, but I know it's of issue right now.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. Thank you. Well, it's...it's a difficult situation. It's, once again, replacing federal funds with General Funds. We've been fairly hard-nosed in the committee, in Appropriations Committee, about replacing federal funds which you'll learn sooner or later we've not replaced DARE funds that are federal funds this year and I'm sure there's going to be some interest in doing that. The point is that we just can't replace all federal lost dollars with state General Funds as a matter of course over a matter of time. If this is to be done I just would say the body's going to have to pick and choose, just as we do on our committee, as to what we do and don't do. This obviously is a humanitarian thing to do, I can't deny that, but it is a million and a half dollars going to be added to our General Fund over this two-year biennium. I'm sure there's going to be some other worthy things that you're going to have to consider and this is all going to impact ultimately in property tax relief or other areas that some want to do. It's kind of going back, if I may revert back to the prison issue, I do not want to do that any more than anyone else does and if there was a way that I could see had been offered at this point to spend those dollars there for something else, I'm willing to look at that. In fact, I've resolved in my own mind